

REMARKS

The application is ripe for examination on the merits. An early examination is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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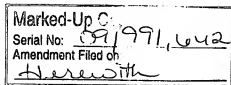
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#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 23-24 as follows:

--Further, the results of Examples 8 and 9 (Reference Examples) shown in Table 1 indicate that the napped leather-like sheet materials of Examples [7 and 8] 8 and 9, provided with the silk protein substance and softening agent not only the surface portions thereof but throughout the whole thereof by impregnation, have a good suede-like appearance and a natural leather suede-like velvety, smooth surface touch, flexibility suited for clothing use etc., with appropriately reduced firmness, and, thus, a high quality feel or touch. However, the napped leather-like sheet materials of Examples [7 and 8] 8 and 9 show decreases in mechanical characteristics thereof. Further, coats were made using the napped leather-like sheet materials obtained in Prior Art Examples 1 and 2, Examples 3 to 5 and Comparative Examples 6 and 7. The coats made by using the materials of Examples 3 to 5 each had a good suede-like appearance and at the same time had a natural leather suede-like velvety and smooth surface touch, and flexibility with appropriately reduced firmness, and thus gave a high quality sensation. The coats made by using the materials of Prior Art Examples 1 and 2 each had a good suede-like appearance but each was lacking in velvety, smooth touch and in flexibility. The coat made by using the material of Comparative Example 6 had a good suede-like appearance and a smooth touch but was lacking in velvety feel and in flexibility. The coat made by using the material of Comparative Example 7 had a good suede-like appearance and flexibility suited for clothing use etc. but was lacking in surface touch and velvety feel.--